



# NEWS RELEASE

*Office of the  
United States Attorney  
for the  
District of Nebraska*  
**Joe W. Stecher**

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March 12, 2009

United States Attorney Joe Stecher, the General Services Administration, Office of Inspector General (GSA/OIG), and the Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General, announce the following information for the attention of the media:

**Event Triggering this Release:**

Tuflly Commercial, LLC, a Nebraska corporation, engaged in the business of drywall installation for commercial and residential properties, entered a plea of guilty to a felony charge of harboring aliens. The Honorable Laurie Smith Camp placed the company on three years of probation and imposed a fine of \$150,000. Tuflly Commercial was further ordered to hire a monitor, to assist the company and report to the United States Probation Office, to insure proper hiring and compliance with “no match” letters issued by the Social Security Administration. A “no match” letter is issued by the Social Security Administration to an employer when discrepancies are observed, i.e, the Social Security number used by an employee was issued to another individual, or has yet to be assigned.

Tuflly Commercial, LLC performed drywall work during the renovation of the Zorinsky Federal Building. Because the building was a Department of Defense project, workers were required to undergo background checks and exhibit badges demonstrating a security clearance. The General Services Administration (GSA) received complaints from other contractors that Tuflly was using a large number of non-English speaking employees who had not been through a security check.

Agents from GSA and the Department of Labor began an investigation. They were later assisted by Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Social Security Administration (OIG). The investigation revealed that a number of Tuflly employees, who were undocumented aliens and not capable of passing a background check, were being issued temporary badges to circumvent the security process. Certified payroll records submitted by the company during the course of their work showed that 24 of 135 employees were the subject of no match letters sent to the company putting the company on notice that those workers were not working under numbers assigned to them by the Social Security Administration. Many of those employees were the subject of no match letters sent by the Social Security Administration two and three years earlier.

A search warrant executed on the business in June 2007 recovered a number of no match letters. Also recovered during the search were company emails reflecting a need for more workers on the Zorinsky Building, followed shortly thereafter by the addition of nine undocumented workers to the project in March 2006.

Randall Tufly entered a plea of guilty to a misdemeanor charging him with harboring an alien. He was sentenced to three years of probation and 150 hours of community service. Richard Ridpath and Agustin Rios have previously entered misdemeanor pleas to harboring aliens and are awaiting sentencing.

United States Attorney Joe Stecher expressed his appreciation to the agents of the General Services Administration, OIG and Department of Labor, OIG who spent in excess of three years investigating this matter. The assistance of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Social Security Administration, OIG was also acknowledged.

**Name of Defendant:** Tufly Commercial, LLC

**AKA:**

**Crime(s) Charged and Potential Penalty** (A CHARGE is merely an accusation and every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty): Encourage/Induce Alien to enter/reside in the United States; up to 5 years Probation, \$500,000 fine, \$400 Special Assessment

**Specific Location of Alleged Crime:** Omaha, Nebraska

**Location of Arrest:** Omaha, Nebraska

**Alleged Dollar Loss/Type and Quantity of Drug:**

**Others Charged in Same Scheme:** Richard Ridpath and Agustin Rios

**Relevant Dates:**

**Date of Alleged Crime:** On and before April 2007

**Federal Arrest Date:** N/A

**Date Complaint Issued:**

**Indictment Returned Date:**

**Initial Appearance Date:**

**Plea or Trial and Date(s):** Pled on March 12, 2009

**Sentencing Date:** March 12, 2009

**Next Court Hearing Type and Date:** N/A

**Assigned Magistrate Judge:** The Honorable Thomas D. Thalken

**Held without Bond, or Released from Custody:**

**In Continuous Custody Since:**

**Assigned District Court Judge:** The Honorable Laurie Smith Camp

**Initials of Assigned AUSA/Preparer of THIS Release:** MPN